

Trends in the Supply of Pharmacists in North Carolina

March 2010

Quick Facts, 2008

Number of Pharmacists in NC:
8,578

Pharmacists per 10,000 Population
North Carolina: 9.3
United States: 8.0

Average age of NC Pharmacists:
43 years, total
48 years, male
39 years, female

Average hours worked per week:
37 hours, total
39 hours, male
36 hours, female

From 2003-2008, relative to population:
69 counties gained pharmacists
29 counties lost pharmacists
2 counties had no pharmacists either year

North Carolina Health Professions Data System

Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

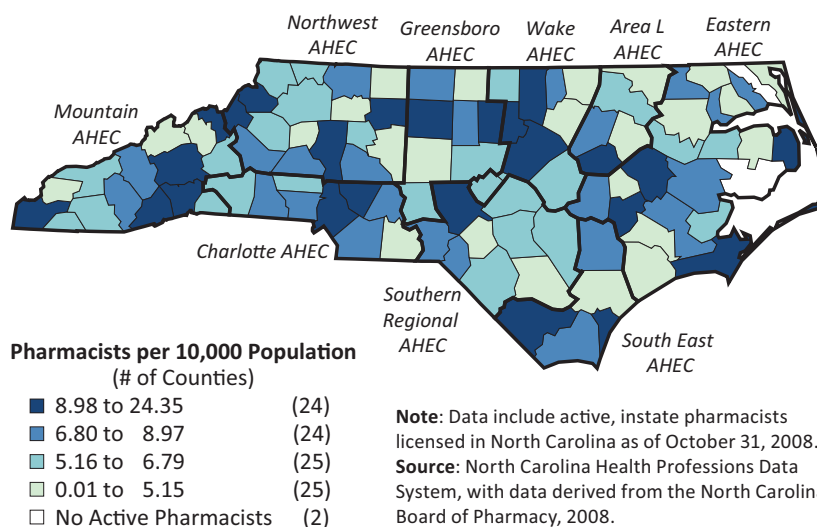
Campus Box 7590
725 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7590

<http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp>
nchp@unc.edu
(919) 966-7112

Workforce Supply

There were 8,578 pharmacists in active practice in North Carolina as of October 2008, or 9.3 per 10,000 residents. The ratio of pharmacists to population is a good indicator for comparisons with national and other state rates, and to track trends over time. The distribution of pharmacists varies across counties; Durham had the highest number of pharmacists relative to population (24.3) and two counties, Hyde and Camden, did not have an active pharmacist (Figure 1).

Figure 1.
Pharmacists per 10,000 Population, North Carolina, 2008



Comparisons to national benchmarks provide another metric by which to measure North Carolina's supply. Due to differences in national and state data sources and methodologies, specific comparisons between United States (US) and North Carolina practitioner-to-population ratios for any year should be interpreted with caution. Since 1987, North Carolina's supply of pharmacists relative to population has exceeded the national ratio, and in the last four years the state's supply has grown against population while the ratio has fallen for the nation (Figure 2).